

SUMMER
'90

POTSHOT presents

no. 10

ANGLE

Welcome to the 10th issue of ANGLE, that nearly indescribable hybrid of badly-drawn cartoons and hastily-reasoned prose from the pen and Macintosh of "Potshot" Bill Kunkel. ANGLE costs \$2.50 an issue but I'd prefer you send me a letter of comment, in which case you get the next issue free. Send everything to: 330 S Decatur, Suite 152, Las Vegas, NV 89107. Summer '90 issue. All contents Copyright Bill Kunkel 1990.

WRESTLESPEAK You've probably noticed by now that pro wrestling, like most forms of entertainment, has its own lexicon, its own slang and vernacular. It also has its own peculiar ways of expressing information.

Remember the old Mad Magazine riff where they had "What They Say" on one page and "What They Mean" on the other? I've decided to use that format to translate some common Wrestlespeak. For example, when a wrestler, prior to a match says: "Believe me, I'm not gonna be ANYONE'S stepping stone!" what he MEANS is: "I'm going to be EVERYONE'S stepping stone!" Or when the announcer says: "This is a high-risk maneuver!" what he MEANS is: "Whoops, this high spot is about to backfire!" Wrestlespeak is especially common among announcers, who are the subject of this installment (please send along any additions!):



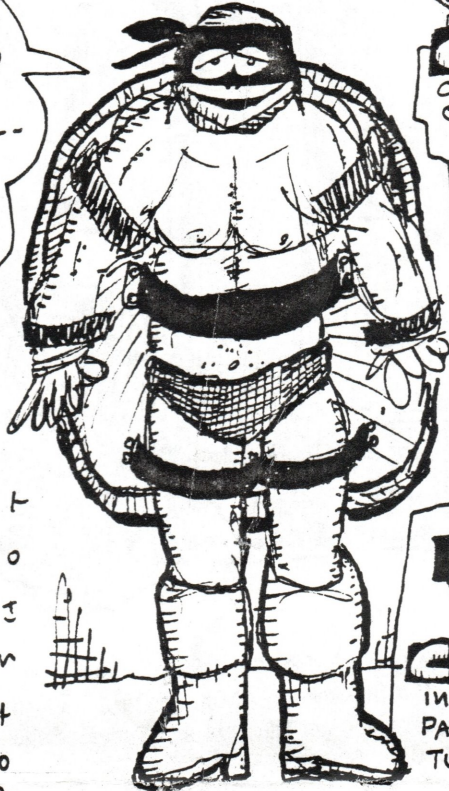
A LOW-TECH PRODUCTION

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contents © 1990 Bill Kunkel

A WRESTLING TRAGEDY

2

WISH I
COULD GO
BACK TO
THE
FUTURE--
I'M A
STAR
THERE!



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ONCE HE WAS
CHRIS CHAMPION
OF THE NEW BREED,
A TAGTEAM FROM
"THE FUTURE"...

HABBED BY THE
SHEETS AS A SURE-SHOT
STAR OF THE FUTURE
HE NONETHELESS
SLIPPED RELENTLESSLY
IN THE ESTIMATION OF
HIS PEERS AND
SMARTFANS EVERY-
WHERE AFTER THE
BREAKUP OF THE BREED.

SEAN ROYAL, WHERE ARE
YOU?!

CHAMPION NOW WORKS THE
INDIES AND KID'S
PARTIES AS "NINJA
TURTLE KOWABUNGA"

POTSHOT GOES IN
SEARCH OF THE SECRET
OF MISSY HYATT'S SUCCESS...



I'M CLOSE--
I CAN SENSE
IT!

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WHAT THEY SAY

"This is the MAJOR LEAGUES of professional wrestling!"

"Don't count these men out!"

"A main event in any arena in the world!"

"The young fans just love this guy!"

"[Wrestler A] IS SOMEWHERE IN THE BUILDING!"

"If they can ever sign the contract and these guys get to meet in the ring, well, I'D pay to see THAT!"

"This kid has all the tools to be a superstar!"

"He's a veteran!" [non-NWA version]

"He's a veteran!" [NWA version]

WHAT THEY MEAN

"This is the MINOR LEAGUES of professional wrestling!"

"Count these men out!"

"A match between two guys not involved in a current program with an inconclusive finish."

"This guy embarasses the hell outa me."

"HERE COMES THE RUN-IN!"

"These guys are already working together EVERYWHERE."

"This kid is LOSING today."

"He's done a lotta jobs and he's doing at least one more tonight!"

"He's getting a BIG push."



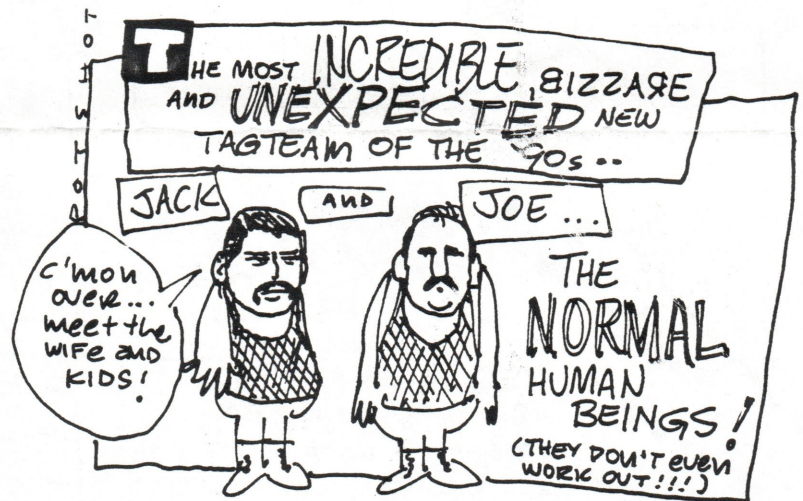
song and should've popped the crowd but instead drew boos). Rude was a one-man-show and his double-juice job with the Warrior -- back to the full face paint -- was a solid three stars.

The production was solid, as usual, but the cameras had trouble with the world's-fastest-2-of-3 falls match (Harts vs Demos).

Did they import this crowd from Trumps or what? The problem with Vince's sweetening of sound is that a REAL live show sounds dead when you're used to these thunderous blasts of sound.

BUMMERSLAM

Pretty awful show this year. They crowded all the interesting matches in the first half of the show and left us with stuff like Savage-Rhodes (maybe it was me, but if they were gonna run this goofy angle -- and what would Ted DiBiase want with Sapphire, anyway? -- where was Dustin?), Hogan-Earthquake, a certified bomb, and the unspeakable Superpowers vs Orients (with Duggan and Nik outdoing even Roseanne Barr with their appalling rendition of "God Bless America," which, by the way, is the Philadelphia Flyers' theme



SPEAK ENGLISH!!

WITH PROF. POTSHOT



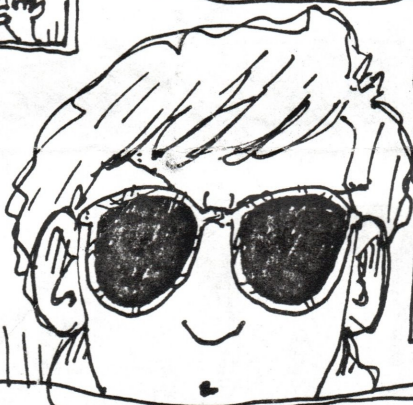
IT'S TRUE I DON'T SPEND A LOT OF CARTOON SPACE DISCUSSING THE LITERARY MERITS OF VARIOUS KAFABE SHEETS...



HOWEVER, SOMETHING HAS NOW HAPPENED WHICH DEMANDS MY ATTENTION...



ALLOW ME TO READ TO YOU SOME SELECTIONS FROM THE 5/28/90 ISSUE OF THE WRESTLING OBSERVER!



THE FOLLOWING WERE ALL PRESENTED AS SINGLE SENTENCES...



OR HOW ABOUT THIS SUCKER:

"THE EQUATION OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CHANGE THE TITLE, WHETHER THEY WANTED TO OR NOT BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN STUPID TO PUT THE BELT ON A GUY WHO WASN'T GOING TO WORK FOR FOUR TO SIX WEEKS WHEN THE GUY THEY REALLY WANTED TO GIVE IT TO IN THE FIRST PLACE (STING) WILL BE JUST ABOUT READY BY THEN ANYWAY PLUS NOT BEING WILLING TO LET A BABYFACE DO A JOB TO FLAIR EQUALS A SCREW-JOB ENDING, EVEN IN A MATCH WHERE THEY BASICALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT."



THAT LAST ONE HERNIATED FIVE OBSERVER READERS...



I HAVE, IN THE PAST, MADE FLEETING REFERENCES TO DAVE MELTZER'S UNFORTUNATE TENDENCY TOWARD RUN-ON SENTENCES...



WELL, NOBODY LISTENED, AND NOW SOMEONE HAS BEEN HURT...

FIVE SOMEONES!



"AND IT WAS THE PLAN BEFORE OLE ANDERSON BECAME BOOKER, AND ONLY OLE AND HIS FRIENDS KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED HAD LUGER BEEN HEALTHY BECAUSE BY THE TIME OLE WAS ANNOUNCED AS BOOKER IT WAS ALREADY WELL KNOWN THAT LUGER WAS GOING TO WORK THE PPV AND HAVE TO LAY OFF AFTERWARDS WHICH MAKES NO SENSE TO GIVE HIM THE TITLE WHEN HE CAN'T WORK HOUSE SHOWS FOR A WHILE -- MAYBE NOT EVEN UNTIL STING COMES BACK!"



THAT IS ONE SENTENCE, FRIENDS.



THAT'S RIGHT - THOSE POOR DEVILS WILL HAVE TO WEAR A TRUSS NOW WHENEVER THEY READ THE OBSERVER...

NOW, BACK TO THE RUN-ON SENTENCES...

"5/18 IN DALLAS WITH THE CROWD WAY DOWN (ESTIMATED AT 250) SAW JEFF GAYLORD PIN JEFF RAITZ, KEVIN VON ERICH BEAT SHEIK SCOTT BRADDOCK, MATT BOURNE OVER T.J. FUNK, STEVE AUSTIN BEAT CHRIS ADAMS IN AN I-QUIT MATCH USING THE FIGURE-4 LEGLOCK, DUNDIE "REGAINED" THE SOUTHERN TITLE FROM TATUM WHEN TATUM PULLED OFF DUNDIE'S BOOT AND GAVE IT TO TESSA AND WHEN THE REF WAS BUMPED, TATUM TOLD HER TO THROW BACK THE FOOT [SIC] BUT INSTEAD SHE THREW IT TO WHERE DUNDIE COULD INTERCEPT IT AND DUNDIE HIT TATUM WITH IT TO REGAIN THE TITLE WHILE THE MAIN EVENT OF JARRETT AND TRAVIS AND THE GIANT (NITRO) VS. TONY ANTHONY AND THE OTHER MYSTERY NEW PIRTY WHITE BOY AND RONNIE GOSSETT ENDED WITH NO DECISION..."

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?!?

OR HOW ABOUT THIS ONE --?



IT JUST GOES ON...!

THIS STRIP CLOSE-CAPTIONED FOR R&R EXPRESS FANS BY ROBERT GIBSON...

THE HUMAN EXCITEMENT SUPPRESSOR...

EL GIGANTE

PRONOUNCED "ELEGANTE"



The AWA Report

by
"SOULFUL" J

Hello, mat fans, and welcome to this edition of the AWA Action Update. This time out we'll be analyzing the current situation surrounding the American Wrestling Association as we here at Soul Central see it. Join us if you will.

Even moreso than Ted Turner's National Wrestling Alliance, public perception and poor direction by ownership have wasted what in the AWA was once a very successful promotion and twisted it into a noose ever tightening around the neck of Verne Gagne. Luckily for Verne, he had the foresight to negotiate world-wide

syndication deals before most other organizations. Monies received from these packages have kept the AWA alive for the past half-decade, albeit at a staggering pace.

One cannot deny the appeal of the group's weekly program. Since the advent of the Team Challenge Series, AWA All-Star Wrestling has become one of the most enjoyable wrestling programs on a heavily saturated TV wrestling line-up. Squash matches are short and effective. Main events are unusual and entertaining. Even announcers Greg Gagne and "Ringside" Ralph Strangis have improved immeasurably. And their best days are ahead of them as they continue to gel and feel more comfortable with each other.

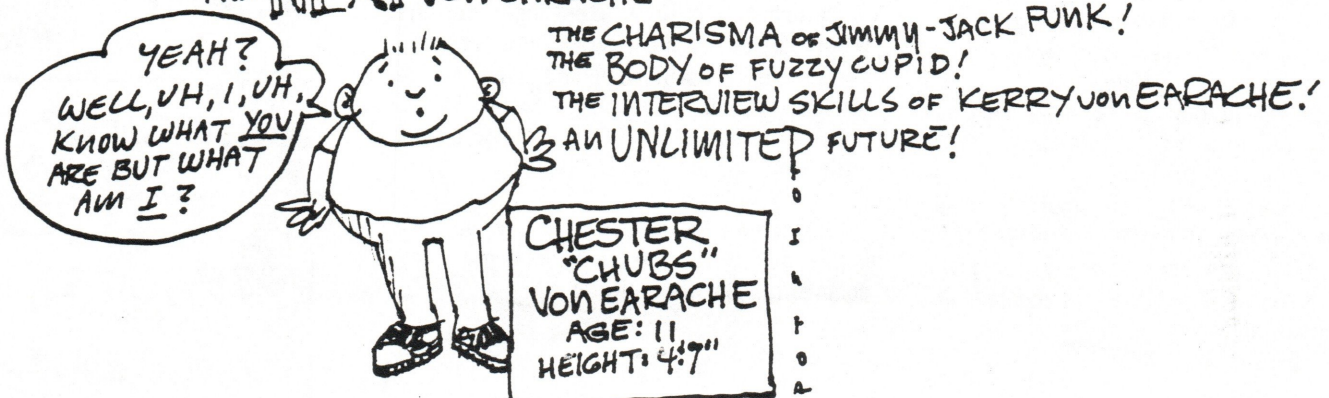
The camerawork is more than acceptable, and at times inspired (did you catch the SkyCam shot of the Wrecking Ball?). Fans hardly ever miss a major move or are distracted by pans of ringsiders. The graphics during interviews are just plain fun. The Crew's rubble, the Sheik's Taj, and the cartoonish LarryLand

give the AWA interviews a WWF feel without coming off as a WWF rip-off. Anyone who has seen World-Wide Wrestling since the return of Tony Schiavone can't help but feel the NWA tries too hard to be the WWF while the AWA is content to just be themselves.

And what could be more AWA-ish than the Team Challenge Series? Be it the Great American Turkey Hunt, the Iron Man Triathlon or a Captain's Choice battle royal headlined by Jake "The Milkman" Milliman, the TCS Main Event deserves a cult following. From its humble beginnings inside what looked suspiciously like a warehouse, the Series has blossomed into near sell-out crowds for TV tapings. Since its inception, the AWA has booked house shows in St. Paul. This has resulted in the Minnesota Wrecking Crew II becoming the most recognizable masked men since the Giant Machine and the Midnight Rider.

In the end, it's the talent that makes the show. The AWA has some of the best young workers around today. The list starts with The Destruction Crew — Wayne "The Train"

THE NEXT VON EARACHE



Bloom and "Mean" Mike Enos. Continue down to the Trooper, Del Wilkes, the next superstar in the sport. Add Johnnie Stewart, the Texas Hangmen (Psycho and Killer), Curtis "The Cat" Hughes and Tommy Jammer. All are capable of matching Lex Luger's workrate by mid-decade.

As far as names go, there's Larry Zbyszko, who can still work a three and a half star match when he wants to. Brad Rheingans, the Olympian, who's more than capable; a re-juvenated Nikita Koloff; and the always-rugged Colonel DeBeers.

So why does the AWA have such a poor public image? The answer can be summed up in two words: Verne Gagne. The man continually let his best talent slip away in the mid-1980's by refusing to adjust his wage scale to a par with other national promotions. He let his TV program be bumped off TV stations when other organizations bought his time. He backstabbed other promoters and many wrestlers. Simply, no one wants to deal with the man.

This being so, how can the Association return to prominence? Obviously, Verne must step aside and allow son Greg to oversee the daily operations of the office. Greg has proven his capabilities with the TCS and actually should be running the NWA today. He has many excellent years ahead of him and knows what works. He would pursue workrate first, then develop believable gimmicks and angles.

The champions in the AWA do need some reworking. The current World Champion is fellow Pittsburgher and fellow Living Legend, Larry Zbyszko. Zbyszko provided the AWA a name champion when it couldn't buy one. But his time has passed. Sometime within the next five minutes, The Trooper should cleanly pin Zbyszko to capture the top honors. Wilkes' workrate is phenomenal for someone with so little experience, and he needs to be put on top for the good of the federation.

The Crew should regain the tag championship and should be re-signed, at any cost, to a multi-year contract. Bloom and Enos are very young, but so very knowledgeable in the business. Kudos to Gagne for taking a chance with them. Now is the time for it to pay off.

Johnnie Stewart will make a good light-heavyweight champion. With Stewart, Wilkes, Bloom and Enos wearing the gold, the AWA would have the top roster of champions in the sport for years to come.

As to the Ladies title, it should be dropped immediately. No one in the world cares about Wendi Richter, Candi DiVine or Magnificent Mimi.

Who else should the American Wrestling Association release? Start with Baron Von Raschke. Nobody likes a fun-loving Nazi more than me, but his time has been dead for twenty years. Same with Jerry Lee Zum Hoffs. His gimmick is stale and he's boring. Lose all ties with midgets. Everyone else I'd keep, including the new Crusher, Flapjack Norton. Like him, I, too, just love them flapjacks.

Lastly, the AWA needs a better cable television package. ESPN is the single most attractive cable outfit for any wrestling promotion, but how good a deal can it be when the assigned slot is once or twice a month on a weekday mid-afternoon? The AWA needs more from ESPN. Maybe a Saturday at 4 p.m. Eastern. Even better, 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings. A fringe slot, to be sure, but one much preferable to what they offer now.

Come negotiation time, the AWA should pursue additional cable outlets. Allow ESPN almost anything they want, provided the Gagnes are allowed to purchase time for their syndie show on the Family Channel or FNN or BET (think about the AWA on BET for a while... okay, that's long enough). Buy a slot on Friday nights, before the big weekend glut. And push the Trooper to the hilt.

Soon, the group could begin pushing one house show a month in smaller name cities. The additional outlet would be a major tool in promoting this. Use localized interviews on the national shows and make sure the wrestlers scheduled to appear actually show. Continue to pursue and train young wrestlers. Be patient. And grow slowly but steadily when the time is right.

It's a start, and it will take time. With the NWA hot these days, it will be tough, but it is within the grasp of the Association to return to big time wrestling. Has the group any policy right now? No, probably not. Verne is still running things, and he doesn't have much direction these days. It's time for a change. And that change begins with Greg Gagne.

That's my evaluation of the group. We here at Soul Central welcome any comments. Simply write to:

John Mohlman,
Mr. AWA
PO Box 5182

Pittsburgh PA

15206-5182

Even if it takes me a year, I'll personally answer each and every one of them, brother.

Till next time, then, this is Soulful J for Angle Magazine reminding you Christmas is coming soon, so mail early. And often. Back to you, Bill.



GIVE IT UP
FOR THE BIG GUY...

BABA FLASHES
AN IMPRESSIVE
DOUBLE-BICEP...

BILL KUNKEL'S **POTSHOTS**

PLUGS

NWA ANTICS

So Sting is the new NWA champion. Great. Now let's overexpose the shit out of him on TV in nondescript squashes. When he does fight a legit challenger on TV, make sure to use that trademark Horsemen run-in finish; if it's not fixed, don't break it. Then make sure he's perceived as just "one of the boys" by entrapping him in the hopeless Dudes with Attitudes angle and having him do as many battle royale interviews as possible. It would also be good to then focus the main angle for an entire month around the number TWO face, Lex Luger. This way everybody can go on endlessly about this phantom butt-kicking by the Horsemen or whoever and all the heat goes on Luger. Another good thing would be to have Sting flail out in as many directions as possible by having him fight no fewer than four opponents (Arn, Flair, Windham -- though that series has seemingly been cancelled, and where the hell is Windham, anyway? -- and the Black Scorpion) rather than focusing him into a solid series against the opponent people actually want to see him fight (Sid Vicious)... But then, that's this week; by next week Sting could be managed by Thunderbolt Patterson and Luger could be ready for his bi-annual turn... Speaking of that Luger-Horsemen non-angle, considering all the actual Horsemen butt-kickings we have seen, what do you suppose possessed Oldie to think we'd care about one that happened OFF-stage? ... Absolutely incredible watching Hansen & Vader die in the NWA. Man, when guys like that can't get over, it's time to sell the business and start peddling VCRs, guys...

The recent NWA humiliation at the Las Vegas video convention where people lined up to meet "Sting" assuming that they were actually going to meet STING and were stunned to find themselves shaking hands with some Tab Hunter-lookalike wrestler who ripped off the name tells us a lot about how effectively WCW markets its wrestlers. Isn't it about time at least this potential embarrassment were averted by the simple expedient of calling Borden "The Stinger"?...

POTSHOTS

While talking to Chris Cruise recently about the current unwillingness of wrestlers to do jobs, I pointed out that there have actually been analogs to this situation in the world of "real" acting. John Wayne, for example, refused to do a cinematic job -- ie, die on-screen -- throughout his career. He kicked the bucket for the first time in "The Shootist," which was also the last movie he ever made... I expect Hogan to do his next job at a similar point in his career... It makes me sick to my stomach to see Big Bossman getting over as a face when he continues to cuff jobbers to the ring ropes and beat them with a club as part of his post-match gimmick. When you start telling kids that this is the way a "hero" acts, you're setting yourself up for one hell of a karmic payback, Unca Vince...

One of the most interesting newsletters to cross my desk in recent months was **TEXAS ROUNDUP**, by an anonymous Texas wrestler. I'm not particularly fascinated by the Texas wrestling scene, but the editor of this sheet captures a behind-the-scenes feel here that I've never before experienced. Loaded with fascinating tidbits and the Texas scene is an interesting place right now. I'd strongly recommend this at \$1.25 an issue from P.O. Box 750532306, Grand Prairie, TX 75051... I also happened across an issue of Harvey Cobb's -- or is it Steve Gerweck's? -- **DRO WRESTLING ENQUIRER**, which I must note as one of the more shocking attempts at cheap heat in the history of pseudo-journalism. In this issue, Harvey "turns heel" and "attacks," according to Gerweck, who is supposedly editing this rag while Cobb is "in jail" for parking tickets. (This latter is a work.) Harvey turns in a page attacking censorship that is so creepy you will want to wash your hands after reading it. I'll bet the framers of the Bill of Rights are resting secure knowing that Harvey Cobb is out there protecting our right to watch (and this is all sic, sic, sic): "straight films - all male - all girl - she males - bondage amateur videos - kinky - raised skirt videos - lingerie & bikini videos - spanking inter-racial - nude wrestling - showers - fetishes - nude beauty pageants - wet t shirts - striptease - foot worship - tickling - water sports - nipple pulling - breast oiling - shaving of pubic hair - kiddie porn - sniff[!!!] films - fisting [!!!!] - sex with animals/pregnant women [!?!] - oral & anal sex - cum shots - big breasts. and list goes on."

What I can't understand is how seemingly intelligent people like Ray Whebbe, John Lanigan (who has his camera-ready report truncated at the end of the first page!) and Bill Moffitt (who hand-letters his

four-pages, creating a look and feel somewhere between Mr. Mike on Elavil and the final pages of "Flowers for Algernon") can disgrace themselves by appearing in a piece of literary sewage like this. Come on, guys, Harvey has offered me the Big Bucks, too -- hell, I could probably get him to go for ten bucks a column if I put my agent on it -- but I resisted. You can too.

Gerweck tells us that "when attacked harvey will be ten times worst [sic] than either Lance Levine & Bill Kinkle [sic] combined!"

I'm not going to list PWE's address and price, however, just to tick Harvey off...

NEXT ISSUE

Next issue there won't be one. An **ANGLE**, that is. No, the next issue of this fanzine won't appear until Winter, shortly after the first of the year. Instead, I will be devoting my wrestling energies

(8)

toward the publication of someone else's work. Madame Edith Kafabio is a trance mystic who specializes in conversing with wrestling personalities from the Other Side and she's got some stuff that could blow the lid off pro wrestling. Find out what **REALLY** happened in that bathroom in Bayamon in our Interview with the Bruiser; see what Vince Sr. thinks of the way his offspring is running the WWF; experience a conversation with Magnon the Magnificent, the first ever wrestling champion; My Last Night on the Town by Rikkidozan and lots, lots more! It's called **MEDIUM HEAT** and I think it should be pretty interesting, even if you're not interested in psychic phenomenon. Wanna know more? **READ THE BOOK!**

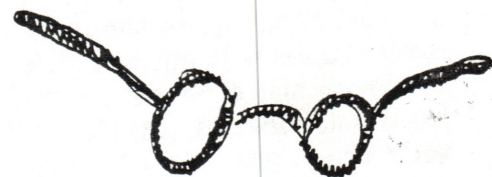
Regular subscribers will receive this and if you're not a

regular subscriber you can't have it and that's that. I also will not be taking any additional subscriptions to **ANGLE** at this point, since I don't want the mailing list to get any bigger. Any newsletters who would like to review us are welcome, but please don't print the address, okay?

Later, crew...

-BILL KUNKEL
The Fabulous
LAS VEGAS, NV

...



ANGLE #10

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